

Extra information
BoS meeting
10-11-07
#5

John Murray

From: Charlie Kadlec
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2007 4:53 PM
To: Dore' Hunter
Cc: Board of Selectmen; Finance Committee; Manager Department
Subject: Re: Acton, design of the North Acton Fire Station

Dore',

I will not be able to attend the BoS meeting tonight (Thursday), see my response below. I have tried to limit my reply to your comments, to the process and to the decisions that you have been making about this project.

Regards,

Charlie

P.S. There is no need for you to use the Town Manager's time to respond on your behalf, I do not expect instant replies.

DoreHunter@aol.com wrote:

Charlie, I have read your various emails this evening on return from Mansfield, and will be back there tomorrow and attending a meeting here tonight so this is rushed. I think your critical comments about John are unfair and uncalled for. I was, perhaps, unwise to use the word "design" in the email you mention in your other message. What is involved is a second lay out drawing, similar but different from the first one we have looked at. The idea is that we cannot really determine whether or not 10,500 square feet, or some another size, will work functionally internally or on the site without seeing a layout. Or at least I cannot, perhaps you can. Accordingly we have asked the architect to do another layout of the of the reduced building so we can look at it, including certainly the various adjacencies.

Please re-read what I wrote. I did not make any "critical comments about John". I did not write anything "about" John, I wrote to him suggesting that he direct the architect to work only on those issues which are useful, to avoid wasting money.

As I am sure you are aware the resultant line drawing will probably not be the last of such and will be a long, long way from the building "design" in the greater sense.

Having the architect do a series of drawings is exactly what I am trying to prevent.

I have not yet seen any of the building projects in town go forward without such drawings, and we certainly could not expect the citizens to approve a building with no idea of its lay out. We are concerned about limiting the necessity to have various layouts produced incrementally since we are trying to get through conceptual design on slender funding.

We are along way from asking the citizens to approve a building. There is no need for any drawings for the November State of the Town meeting, especially if such drawings are "a long, long way from the building design", people know what a fire station looks like. At the November meeting, the taxpayers need an explanation of why this project is beneficial and how it will impact them, an explanation of the fire department operations before and after the construction of a new station with emphasis on the response to medical calls, a review of the plans for the use of the existing stations should a new one be built, and a presentation of the costs explaining how the proposed new station would be

10/11/2007

funded.

I agree that most if not all of the recent building projects involved having an architect do many different layouts but I do not agree that this is necessary or even desirable. I consider it poor management and a waste of money. I agreed to serve on the FEATG for two reasons. First, because we do need to improve response times to North Acton and therefore a project to construct a new station is valid. My second reason is to use what we learned in previous projects to avoid making the same costly mistakes. In the case of the Public Safety Building, \$200,000 and almost two years were wasted having the first architect produce a series of building plans (none of which made any functional sense) without any cost target. That lesson should have been learned.

Regards,

Dore' Hunter

Chairman of the Board of Selectman & VSO, Town of Acton, MA

Telephone: 978-263-0882

Email: dorehunter@aol.com

See what's new at AOL.com and [Make AOL Your Homepage](#).

10/11/2007